

University of Southern California
Staff Assembly
General Assembly Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 2011
TCC 227 University - Park Campus -
(Please silence all cell phones/pagers)

Present: Monique Abeyta, Teri Adams, Steve Adcook, Laura Aguilar, Noel Aguilar, Vivian Alegria, Evelyn Alva, Rachel Baeza, Linda Bazilian, Shirley Beard-King, Paul Biddlecomb, Robert Boyd, Desiree Brown, Frida Canono, Carolina Castillo, Amy Cienfuegos, Cynthia Clayton, Ingrid DeCook, Lisa Gallegos, Jennifer Gerson, Rita Gonzales, Jennifer Hong, Tony Hong, Tessie Jamanila, Tracy Kerr, Alan Kita, Naomi Martinez, Ellen Miyasaki, Si Nguyen, Joyce Perez, Rick Scott, Linda Sturm, Wade Thompson-Harper, Lorna Tureaud, Margaret Turner, Susan Wiedem, Amy Yung

Absent: Allison Bryant, Carmen Carillo, Paul Flores, Syreeta Greene, Shannon Hinojosa, John Johnson, Michelle Jones, Christine Lavoie, Rachel Levy, Monica Morita, Gloria Reyes, Yolanda Rios, Mary Trujillo, Gretchen Villaluz-Picazo, Jeanne Weiss, Vicki Young, Marisela Zuniga

Call to Order:

President Linda Bazilian called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

Staff Monthly Recognition Award

Randy Bergdahl, Managing Contract Coordinator of Facilities Management Services, introduced the November Staff Monthly Recognition Award recipient Thomas Brooks, Stockroom Material Handler for FMS. Randy noted that Thomas has been with the university for 39 years and has done his job flawlessly; he is a hard worker who always takes on extra work at a moments notice. Thomas's coworkers also commended him on what a good worker he is. Thomas thanked the assembly for giving him this award.

President Linda Bazilian presented Thomas with a plaque on behalf of the Staff Assembly. Staff Club President Wade Thompson-Harper presented a check for \$150.00 to Thomas on behalf of the Staff Club.

Approval of October 6, 2011 General Assembly Minutes

On a motion by Alan Kita and seconded by Wade Thompson-Harper, the minutes of October 6, 2011, meeting of the Staff Assembly were approved with corrections.

Personnel Council Report - Awilda Bregand

Awilda reported that the Minnesota Life Insurance information sessions did not go as planned because they were over attended, and the live webinar did not work because the system froze as too many people were trying to log in; they are hoping to have the taped webinar up on the benefits website by the end of the week. She also reminded employees that they need to log in to the Minnesota Life Insurance website to assign their beneficiaries; there are still 11,000 employees who have yet to do this. It is open enrollment time for staff. USC has decided to stay with Delta Dental instead of switching

to Anthem. Benefits Administration has gotten a lot of negative feedback regarding the employee + spouse contribution increase. This tier contribution had to be raised because we have older employees and it has become just as expensive as the employee + family tier. USC is still less expensive than their peer institutions. In the first quarter of next year, Benefits Administration will be outsourcing COBRA to Wage Works as they average 200 terminations a month and it has become unmanageable for Benefits to process the paper work. Employees will be able to enroll online at the Wage Works website and make their payments online. John Hancock, our long-term care provider, applied to all the different states in which they do business to increase their rates, and although the states have not weighed in yet, the increase will probably be approved. Awilda is suggesting that employees should not cancel their insurance, but if the increase is too much, just simply reduce the benefit, as long-term care insurance is hard to come by.

Committee Reports

Communications

No report was given.

Compensation and Benefits

No report was given.

Environment

No report was given.

Rights and Responsibilities

No report was given.

Rules and Elections - Lorna Tureaud - Chair

Lorna reported that the nomination process has begun for next year's Staff Assembly. Out of the 331 names submitted, 34 candidates confirmed that they want to run for election and 36 are unconfirmed. Today is the last day to nominate candidates. The committee will meet after the General Assembly meeting.

Transportation - Lisa Gallegos - Co-Chair

Lisa reported that the committee received an email regarding having a permanent shuttle stop at the transient center at the 110 freeway, as there is currently no regular stop on the shuttle route. It is a safety concern as people have to walk to the bus stop after dark, and there is a lack of crosswalks on Flower Street between the Credit Union Building and the bus stop. Lisa would like to get solid feedback from the assembly. At the committee's next meeting, they will meet with Jeff Shields and Michele Garcia in Transportation Services to wrap up issues they have been working on this year.

Guest Speaker - Jim Hooker - ASVP of Cultural & University Events

Jim began working with the university nine years ago. Before he came to USC, he worked in the film industry. He is in charge of producing events for the university worldwide. Some of the events that he has produced include the Inauguration of President Nikias and USC's Global Conference in Hong Kong. He notes that his job is

all about the details and to remove all the distractions. His main goal is to “conceptualize and produce effective strategically designed events that promote the USC mission.” His office consists of 18 staff, and they produce 300 events annually. It is a demanding job, but it is also very rewarding.

New Business:

Rita Gonzales brought up a concern regarding the payroll deduction being eliminated for dues collecting organizations, and she wanted to know if Staff Assembly could inquire about this situation. Vivian Alegria noted that the best person to contact regarding this is Christopher Rael of University Advancement. Linda Bazilian said she was approached by Lihua Liu about having the assembly promote an Immigrant Health Initiative which would focus on exposing people to the healthy foods of different cultures and exposing others to different cultural food ideas. She would like feedback from the assembly. One of the suggestions was to co-sponsor an International Food Fair on HSC.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Location: TCC 450, University Park Campus.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Margaret Turner and was seconded by Lisa Gallegos. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Robbie Boyd.

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Staff Assembly Web page address: <http://www.usc.edu/org/staffassembly/>